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December 5, 2001

BOX PCT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PCT/AU00/00640
- filed 07 June 2000

Re: Application of Peter Eric **EVANS**
"ANCHORING OR WEIGHTING SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE
ROAD SIGNS AND BARRICADES"
Our Ref.: 3760.007

Dear Sir:

The following documents and fees are submitted herewith in connection with the above application for the purpose of entering the National stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 and in accordance with Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty:

- X this express request to immediately begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
- X an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- X an English Language International Application with Australian Search Report
- an English (translation of the) International Application.
- an English (translation of) Article 19 claim amendments.
- X English language Article 34 amendments (annexes to the IPER) .
- an executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form.
- X Two (2) Sheets of Formal Drawings
- X Preliminary Amendment.

10/009967

JOE REC'D PCT/PTO 9 5 DEC 2001

It is assumed that copies of the International Application, the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Examination Report, and any Articles 19 and 34 amendments as required by §371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned can easily provide them upon request.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	12	-	20	=	_____	x \$ 9 = \$
Independent Claims	2	-	3	=	_____	x \$ 42 = \$
Base Fee						\$ 520.00

TOTAL FILING FEE \$ 520.00

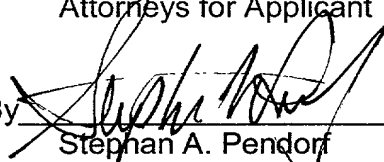
A check for the statutory filing fee of \$520.00 is attached. Please charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-0877. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.492 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to said Account.

Assertion is hereby made that the inventor qualifies as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled "ANCHORING AND WEIGHTING SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE ROAD SIGNS AND BARRICADES", described in the specification filed herewith.

Priority is claimed from June 7, 1999, based on Australian Application No. PQ 0818.

Respectfully submitted,

PENDORF & CUTLIFF
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
December 5, 2001
Page 3

10/009967
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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EF188922733US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **December 5, 2001**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing cover letter including the English Language International Application with Australian, Declaration and Power of Attorney, Preliminary Amendment, two (2) sheet of formal drawings, International Preliminary Examination Report, payment of fee, and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **ATTN: Box PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.


Bonnie L. Horst

10009967-120501

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Peter Eric EVANS

Appln. No.:

Filed: December 5, 2001

For: ANCHORING OR WEIGHTING SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE
ROAD SIGNS AND BARRICADES

Attorney Docket No.: 3760.007

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attn: Box PCT
Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (CLEAN VERSION):

Please cancel original Claims 1-13; cancel Substitute Claims
1-12 (IPER/AU); please add the following new Claims 14-25:

14. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers,
comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid
or semi-rigid material defining a cavity space therein
adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, said base
portion having a preformed raised central region adapted to
straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or
trestle cross-bar to prevent or to restrict relative
movement of said support frame or trestle, said base portion
having an upper surface adapted to receive an upwardly

vertically-extending post member, which is attached to said base portion.

15. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers according to claim 14, wherein the base portion comprises a truncated inverted v-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide variable anchorage weight to said anchoring system.
16. An anchoring system according to claim 14, further comprising a said upwardly vertically extending post member attachable to said base portion.
17. An anchoring system according to claim 16, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.
18. A portable bollard or stanchion, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material, defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, and an upwardly vertically extending post member attachable to said base portion, wherein said base portion has a raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar.
19. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein said base portion comprises a truncated inverted v-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity-space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide

viable anchorage weight to said portable bollard or stanchion.

20. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.
21. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein the upper end of the post member incorporates or includes light emitting means.
22. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 21, wherein the light emitting means is a solar powered rechargeable light source, optionally including photoelectric cells means for automatic on/off switching between day and night.
23. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, including light reflecting means.
24. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, adapted to support rigid or flexible barrier or barricade means.
25. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 24, wherein an upper end of the post member is slotted to receive and support one or more elongated barrier boards.

U.S. Application No.:
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

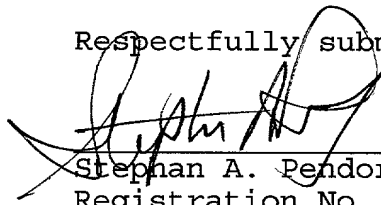
Attorney Docket: 3760.007

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

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P.O. Box 20445
Tampa, Florida 33622-0445
(813) 886-6085

Date: December 5, 2001

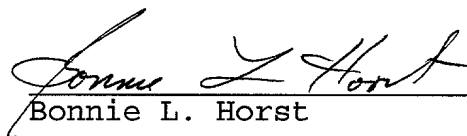
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EF188922733US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 5, 2001

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: ATTN: Box PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.


Bonnie L. Horst

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The Examiner is requested to accept the marked-up version as it is based on the previous version, which when modified as below, produces the clean version submitted with the current amendment.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel original Claims 1-13.

Please cancel substitute Claim 1-12 (IPER/AU).

Please add the following new Claims 14-25:

- 14. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, said base portion having a preformed raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar to prevent or to restrict relative movement of said support frame or trestle, said base portion having an upper surface adapted to receive an upwardly vertically-extending post member, which is attached to said base portion.
15. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers according to claim 14, wherein the base portion comprises a truncated inverted v-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide variable anchorage weight to said anchoring system.

16. An anchoring system according to claim 14, further comprising a said upwardly vertically extending post member attachable to said base portion.
17. An anchoring system according to claim 16, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.
18. A portable bollard or stanchion, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material, defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, and an upwardly vertically extending post member attachable to said base portion, wherein said base portion has a raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar.
19. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein said base portion comprises a truncated inverted v-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity-space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide viable anchorage weight to said portable bollard or stanchion.
20. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.

21. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, wherein the upper end of the post member incorporates or includes light emitting means.
22. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 21, wherein the light emitting means is a solar powered rechargeable light source, optionally including photoelectric cells means for automatic on/off switching between day and night.
23. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, including light reflecting means.
24. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 18, adapted to support rigid or flexible barrier or barricade means.
25. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 24, wherein an upper end of the post member is slotted to receive and support one or more elongated barrier boards.--

ANCHORING OR WEIGHTING SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE ROAD SIGNS AND BARRICADESTECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a traffic safety device and anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers, portable delineators, road bollards and the like.

BACKGROUND

A conventional portable barricade or barrier comprises an elongate board or plank, horizontally disposed on one elongate side edge thereof, supported at either end by a trestle or other support frame at a pre-determined height above ground level. Often there is a need to anchor the support frames to the ground to provide stability in windy or gusty conditions, or to make the barrier more stable against accidental movement or the like. Traditionally this has been achieved by the use of sand bags or concrete blocks to hold the support frames in place, but such usage can be inconvenient or cause occupational health and safety issues resulting from road maintenance personnel being required to lift heavy sand bags or concrete blocks from a central storage area to the intended barrier site, or their acting as a solid projectile when impacted by a vehicle.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers or the like, which goes at least some way towards overcoming or at least minimising the prior art problems or limitations outlined above or for providing a clear alternative choice for potential users.

It is another object of this invention to provide an improved anchoring system for portable bollards, barricades or barriers, or the like, which incorporates a water reservoir as an anchoring means, which can be emptied or filled in situ.

It is a further object of this invention to provide an improved anchoring system of the type described above, which can be adapted for use as a guide post, marker post, bollard or the like, and which can be used as a hazard marker.

PCT/AU00/00640
Received 20 March 2001

-2-

It is yet another object of this invention to provide an improved anchoring system of the type described above which is environmentally friendly and which avoids potential environmental pollution from decomposing sand-filled hessian (or burlap) bags.

It is yet a further object of this invention to provide a versatile anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers, or the like, which is relatively simple in construction and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

These and other objects of this invention will become more apparent from the following descriptions and drawings.

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided an anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers or the like, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material defining a fluid-fillable cavity space therein, said base portion being adapted to be attachable to or to straddle a part of a conventional portable barricade support frame or trestle to prevent or to restrict relative movement of said support frame or trestle. Optionally, the base portion is adapted to receive and to retain a vertical post member at its upper end for use as a bollard or stanchion, or the like.

More specifically, the present invention provides an anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers, comprising of a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, said base portion having a preformed raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar to prevent or to restrict relative movement of said support frame or trestle, said base portion having an upper surface adapted to receive an upwardly vertically-extending post member, which is attachable to said base portion.

AMENDED SHEET
IPEA/AU

PCT/AU00/00640

Received 20 March 2001

ART 34 AMDT

-2a-

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a portable bollard or stanchion, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material, defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, and an upwardly vertically-extending post member attachable to said base portion, wherein said base portion has a raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS

The invention provides a water-filled vessel to anchor or weigh down barricade trestles, such as "A" frames and barrier boards, thus preventing them from turning over in wind, traffic generated wind gusts or traffic. An addition to this concept is the ability to fit a bollard to the vessel to make it a stanchion in its own right.

The invention will now be further described with reference to the accompanying drawings relating to one possible non-limiting embodiment of the invention. In the drawings:-

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of an anchoring device with a built-in water reservoir and incorporating a guide post or bollard which can be used as a hazard marker or the like;

AMENDED SHEET
IPEA/AU

- FIG.2 is a perspective view illustrating a plurality of guide posts or bollards of the type illustrated in FIG.1 marking or defining the outer edge of a roadway or pavement;
- FIG.3 is a perspective view of a plurality of guide posts or bollards of the type illustrated in FIG.1 comprising part of a portable barricade; and
- FIG.4 is a perspective view of an anchoring device of the type illustrated in FIG.1, anchoring a trestle or barricade support frame.

According to the embodiment illustrated in FIG.1, the anchoring system comprises a truncated inverted V-shaped vessel 2 having a cavity space therein to contain a quantity of water to provide anchorage weight to the device. Ideally, the vessel is made from UPVC material with a volume of up to 20 litres. It includes a cap 14 for the inlet and outlet of water or other fluid. The inverted V-shape is adapted to straddle the lower horizontal cross bar of an A-shaped barricade trestle, as shown in FIG.4. A carry handle is provided at 15.

A vertical post or bollard member 3 is adapted for attachment to the upper truncated end of the vessel 2, preferably by means of a bayonet type fit between the vessel 12 and the lower end of the vertical post 12. The post 3 may include reflective tape 11 as a safety measure for night-time use, and include an identifying logo or other indicia (not shown). The upper end 4 of the post includes a horizontally-extending slot 5 adapted to receive either a single or dual barrier board (16 in FIGS 3 and 4) or the adjacent overlapping ends of horizontally extending barrier boards.

Preferably, the bottom, middle and upper end of the post (3, 4 and 7) is adapted to receive a rope or chain (as at 8, 9 and 10) when same is used as a barrier. Optionally, the upper end 7 of the post may incorporate a warning light, preferably a solar rechargeable light with the post incorporating rechargeable battery means, and photoelectric cell means for automatic on/off switching between day and night. The preferred form of lighting is a LED light or other low energy light means.

This product has many advantages over these traditional methods, the most important being weight and occupational health and safety issues. The anchor can be filled up on site by a water truck negating the need for heavy bags or blocks to be carted from a central storage point to the site. This will have substantial benefits on the employees, eliminating lifting and back pain. It also eliminates the need to fill bags with sand on site, and the need for manual labour for this purpose.

The anchor 1 also has an added advantage over sand bags or concrete blocks in that a guide post, marker post or bollard 3 can be inserted in the bayonet cavity 13 moulded into the top end of the vessel or base 2, thus the anchor can also become a hazard marker.

Once the anchor's duties have ceased, it can easily be emptied by removing the cap and letting the water run onto the ground or into the gutter for disposal. This presents many advantages over traditional methods in that no sand or decomposing bags pollute the environment.

Ideally, the components of the anchor means are moulded from UV stable plastics materials, including UPVC, HDPE and polycarbonates, in any colour according to end-user or safety requirements.

Although an exemplary embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it will be apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art that a number of changes, modifications or alternations to the invention described herein may be made, none of which depart from the spirit of the present invention. All such changes, modifications, and alternations should therefore be seen as being within the scope of the present invention.

It should be appreciated that the present invention provides a substantial advance in anchoring means for portable barriers or barricades, or the like, providing all of the herein-described advantages without incurring any relative disadvantages.

PCT/AU00/00640
Received 20 March 2001

ART 34 AMDT

-5-

CLAIMS

1. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers, comprising of a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, said base portion having a preformed raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar to prevent or to restrict relative movement of said support frame or trestle, said base portion having an upper surface adapted to receive an upwardly vertically-extending post member, which is attachable to said base portion.
2. An anchoring system for portable barricades or barriers according to claim 1, wherein the base portion comprises a truncated inverted V-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide variable anchorage weight to said anchoring system.
3. An anchoring system according to claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising a said upwardly vertically-extending post member attachable to said base portion.
4. An anchoring system according to claim 3, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.
5. A portable bollard or stanchion, comprising a base portion having an outer housing of a rigid or semi-rigid material, defining a cavity space therein adapted to contain a fluidic ballasting material, and an upwardly vertically-extending post member attachable to said base portion, wherein said base portion has a raised central region adapted to straddle a part of a portable barricade support frame or trestle cross-bar.

AMENDED SHEET
IP/AU

PCT/AU00/00640
Received 20 March 2001

ART 34 ANDT

-6-

6. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 5, wherein said base portion comprises a truncated inverted V-shaped vessel having a fluid-fillable cavity-space therein adapted to contain a quantity of a fluid material to provide variable anchorage weight to said portable bollard or stanchion.
7. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the post member is attachable to the base portion by means of an interlocking bayonet coupling between component parts of the base portion and the post member.
8. A portable bollard or stanchion according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the upper end of the post member incorporates or includes light emitting means.
9. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 8, wherein the light emitting means is a solar powered rechargeable light source, optionally including photoelectric cells means for automatic on/off switching between day and night.
10. A portable bollard or stanchion according to any one of claims 5 to 9, including light reflecting means.
11. A portable bollard or stanchion according to any one of claims 5 to 10, adapted to support rigid or flexible barrier or barricade means.
12. A portable bollard or stanchion according to claim 11, wherein an upper end of the post member is slotted to receive and support one or more elongated barrier boards.

AMENDED SHEET
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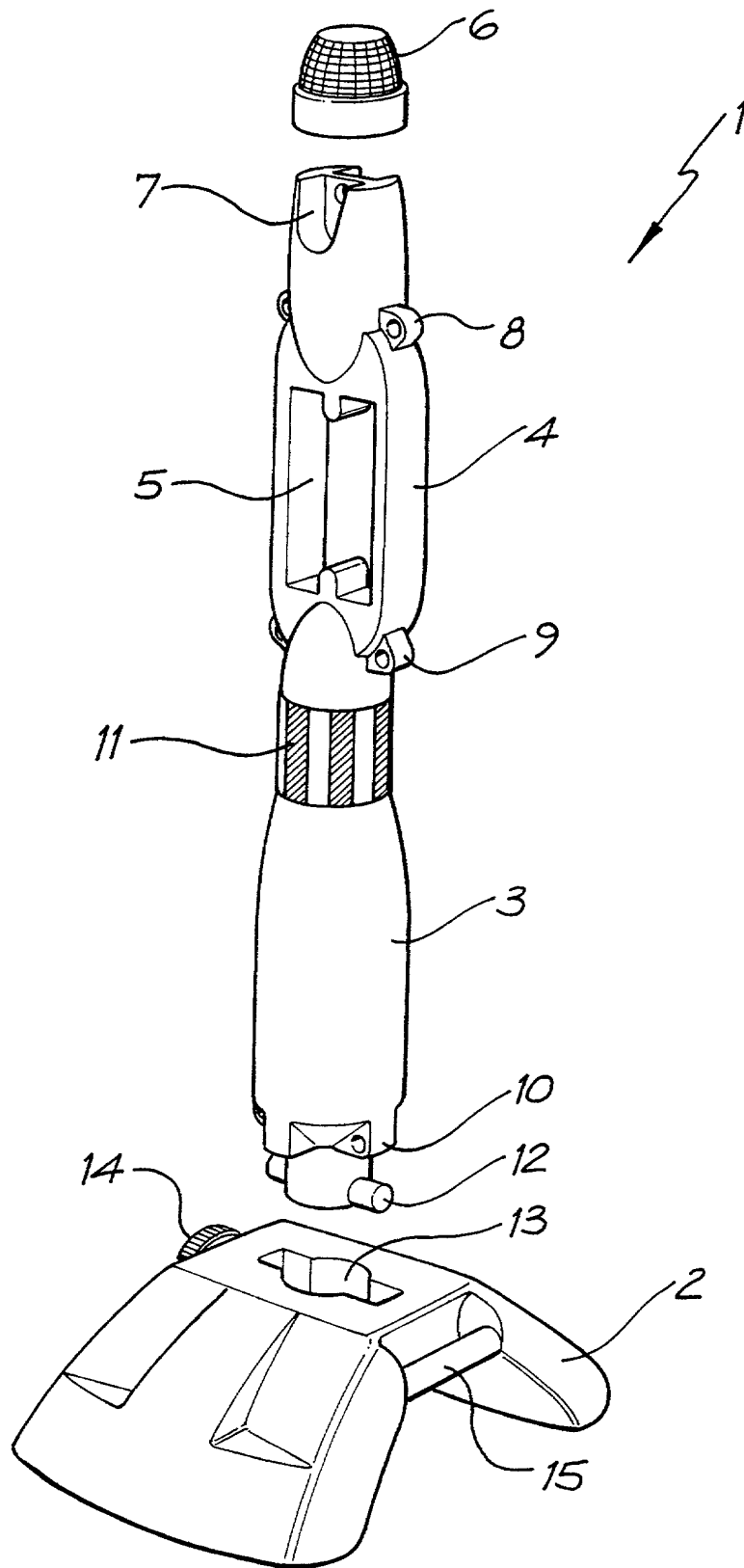


FIG. 1

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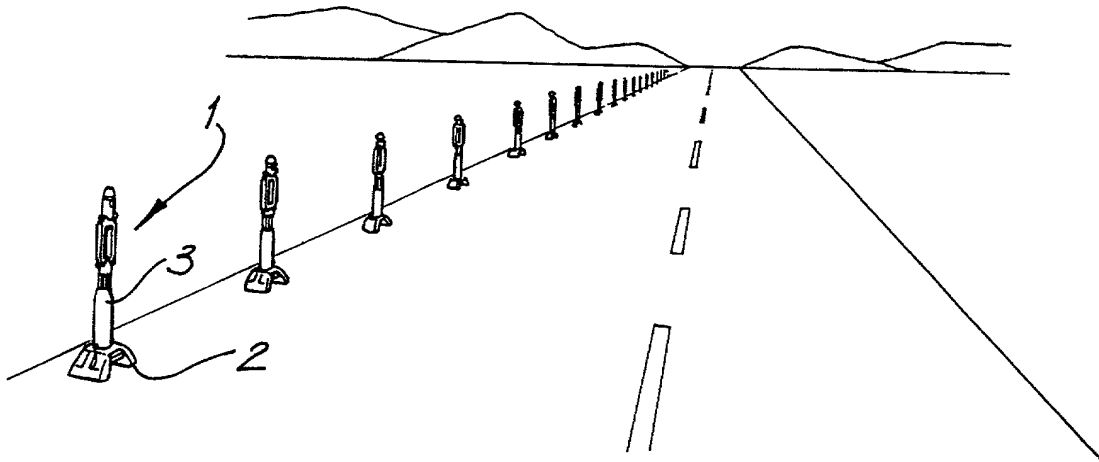


FIG. 2

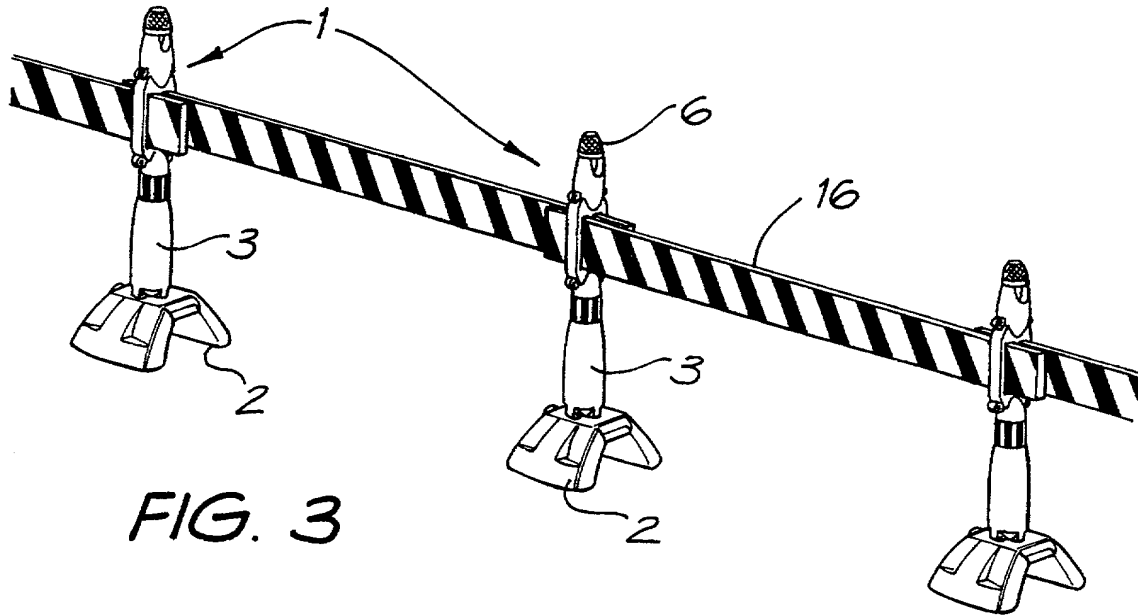


FIG. 3

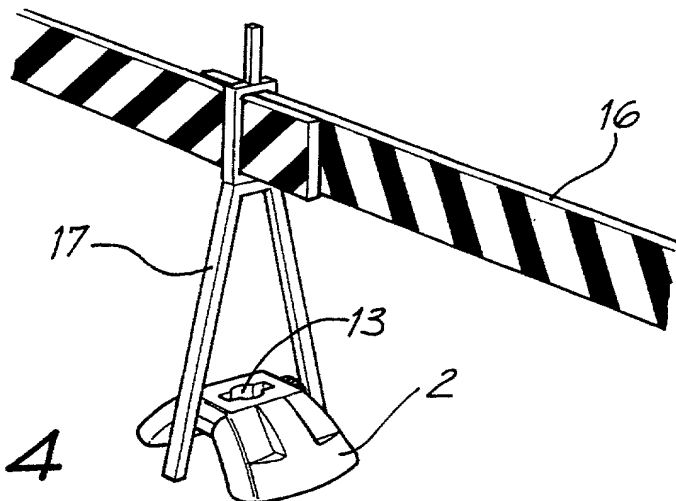


FIG. 4

SOLE/JOINT
ATTY DOCK: 3760.007**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor(s), I/We hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter, which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

ANCHORING OR WEIGHTING SYSTEM FOR PORTABLE ROAD SIGNS AND BARRICADES

This declaration is directed to:

the attached application
(for original application)Application No. _____
filed _____, and amended on _____
(for declaration not accompanying application)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (yes or no)
PQ 0818	Australia	June 7, 1999	yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any material information under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Stephan A. Pendorf, Reg. No. 32,665; Yaté K. Cutliff, Reg. No. 40,577 and Evelyn A. Defillo, Reg. No. 45,630, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to Stephan A. Pendorf at Pendorf & Cutliff, P.O. Box 20445, Tampa, FL 33622-0445.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date 4/12/01 First Inventor Peter Eric EVANS
Middle Initial Last NameResidence same as mailing Signature [Signature]
Mailing Address Unit 10, 121 Crisp CircuitCitizenship Australian Bruce, Australian Capital Territory 2617, Australia"EXPRESS MAIL" LABEL NO.: EX-188 922 73305
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20531, ON THIS DATE. THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FEES ARISING HEREFROM AT ANY TIME TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 16-0877.P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 2220212/5/01[Signature]